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STATE LEGISLATURE

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 19th March 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Hospitals without doctors.

* 1464 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of hospitals in the State where there are no doctors working; and

(*b*) the number of hospitals which have no adequate supply of medicines?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) One.

" (*b*) Nil."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY:—" If there is a vacancy why are doctors not immediately appointed. There is a Government Order passed in the year 1945 by which even Homeopathic doctors could be appointed to the Rural dispensaries. Will Government at least give effect to that order? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Sir, this question relates to hospitals. There is a difference between hospitals and dispensaries. In dispensaries only out-patient treatment is given. But in hospitals there are beds for in-patients. Regarding Homœopathic doctors, Government are not prepared to employ them at present."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY:—" The Hon. Minister for Revenue once referred to the fact that in his district there are certain wonders such as a fort without a garrison, a tank without water, etc. May I know whether this wonder of hospitals without doctors will be a permanent feature in our State? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" No, Sir. Recently 150 doctors have been recruited by the Services Commission."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN:—" Sir, in order to combat the shortage of doctors mostly in rural areas will the Hon. Minister examine the question of extending the age of retirement of doctors and re-employ them if they are physically and mentally fit? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" There is no necessity for the re-employment of retired doctors. There is shortage of Health Officers and there are several cases where Health Officers have been re-employed after retirement."

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Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" I am told that in the Headquarters hospital at Cuddalore certain classes of medicines are not at all adequately supplied and stocked. Would the Government come forward to supply all these medicines to this hospital? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" This question deals with doctors. But the hon. Member is asking a question about medicines . . ."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" My question has reference to answer to clause (*b*), Sir."

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" There is enough stock of medicines in the hospitals, Sir. If there is any shortage it will be supplied from the District Headquarters hospital. What happens at present is, most of the patients in the hospitals are suffering from nutritional disorders where they require more food rather than medicines. Excessive drugging should be discouraged."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, since doctors are not inclined to go into the rural parts it becomes necessary to import a kind of rural bias to their outlook. Therefore would Government insist upon the doctors serving for at least two years in some recognized village dispensary before they are considered qualified to enter Government service at all? If this is done they will be tempted to accept jobs in rural parts as the prospect of employment in Government service would serve as a kind of attraction."

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Gentleman that there is a proposal to have a good number of health centres in the National Extension areas."

Sri K. V. RAMASWAMI :—" The Hon. Minister said that there is one hospital without a doctor. May I know which is that hospital? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Chengam in North Arcot district."

Sri P. SELVARAJ :—" Since it has been complained that there is shortage of doctors, and that there are rural hospitals without doctors, will Government come forward to commandeer doctors who were granted free scholarships for service in these hospitals? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no such need, Sir. Sometimes what happens is this. A doctor posted to a particular hospital does not join and so that hospital goes without a doctor for a short time."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it a fact that the chief requirements of the Cuddalore hospitals is in respect of medicines for treating patients suffering from venereal diseases and such medicines are not being adequately supplied to that hospitals? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" We have got a very good remedy for that disease. Penicillin is the sovereign remedy for V.D. cases and it has become cheap now."